



ALL AROUND US

Grandpa says circles are all around us. We just have to look for them.

He points to the rainbow that rises high in the sky after a thundercloud has come.



He traces the colorful arc with his hand and says, “Can you see? That’s only half the circle. The rest of it is down below, in the earth, where water and light feed new life. That’s the part we cannot see.”

But in my mind, I try.



Grandpa and I work side by side in the garden, planting flowers and pulling vegetables. We eat what we’ve grown—crunchy lettuce, sweet carrots and spicy chiles.



Grandpa saves the stems, leaves, and seeds to bury back in the ground.

“Here is another circle,” he says. “What we take from the earth, we return.”



He draws a big circle on his belly with his hand and a little circle on mine, and says, “We even have circles inside!”

This makes me laugh.



Grandpa and I take a walk around our neighborhood, where we find other circles... the sun... the clock... the bicycle wheels.

We stare at the green and brown rings in each other's eyes for a long time, and then we laugh again.



He's right!

Circles are everywhere!



"I'll show you one more important circle before the big, round moon comes out," says Grandpa.

We walk way back in our yard and sit under a tall pecan tree.



Grandpa seems sad when he sits here, because this is where we bury the ashes of our ancestors. I don't remember them, but he does.

"Even our bodies return to the earth," he says, and pats the ground with his big hands. "But that's only half of the circle, that's the part we cannot see."



Finally, we walk to the front yard to water our smallest tree.

Grandpa planted it for me on the day I was born, and everything that fed me while I grew in my mother's belly is buried at the roots.



I love bringing water to the apple tree that is already taller than I am.

Grandpa pats my head and says, “Do you see, my grandchild? We have new life with you.”

I am part of the circle too, the part we *can* see... just like a rainbow!



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